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Dated: May 6, 2006 Signature: _____

(George A. Xixis)

IPW

Docket No.: 022956-0225
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of: Francois Binette et al.

Application No.: 10/657,516

Confirmation No.: 7793

Filed: September 8, 2003

Art Unit: 1636

For: CHONDROCYTE THERAPEUTIC DELIVERY
SYSTEM

Examiner: C. X. Qian

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

MS Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This communication is in response to the restriction requirement set forth in the Office Action mailed April 6, 2006 (Paper No. 0306).

The Examiner has required restriction between:

- I. Claims 1-24, drawn to genetically altered chondrocyte, classified in class 435, subclass 325;
- II. Claims 25-35, drawn to a method for modifying an environment of a cell associated with a disorder using a genetically altered chondrocyte, classified in class 424, subclass 93.1; and
- III. Claims 36-47, drawn to a method for ameliorating a disorder or injury by using a genetically altered chondrocyte, classified in class 514, subclass 14.

Applicants hereby elect Group I (Claims 1-24) for continued examination. Accordingly, claims 25-47 are withdrawn from consideration.

The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned attorney for Applicants if such communication is deemed to expedite prosecution of this application.

Dated: May 5, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By 

George A. Xixis

Registration No.: 38,664

NUTTER MCCLENNEN & FISH LLP

World Trade Center West

155 Seaport Boulevard

Boston, Massachusetts 02210-2604

(617) 439-2766

(617) 310-9766 (Fax)

Attorney for Applicant